

**INCOMING TELEGRAM****Department of State**

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Action

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SENT DEPARTMENT 1087, BASRA 09, REPEATED INFORMATION LONDON 82,  
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Under-Secretary Foreign Office Afshar on February 23 orally informed us GOI desired USG have following official Iranian position re current dispute with Iraq over berthing of vessels at Abadan.

Iran regards berthing of vessels at Abadan under Iranian control as its right under 1937 Treaty with Iraq. In order to dock at Abadan ships must enter Iranian territorial waters and when they do so they must be under Iranian control. Iran now has berthing Masters who are fully qualified to bring the vessels into Abadan and Iraqi statements to contrary are entirely without foundation. GOI is aware that as consequence of its insistence upon use Iranian berthing Masters Abadan refinery may be forced curtail production or even close down, but Iran is prepared accept financial effects of this. GOI will not back down in face of Iraqi pressures designed deprive Iran its legitimate rights at Abadan.

Afshar said he did not know substance of Ambassador Aram's conversation with Qassem February 22, but that he expected Aram arrive Tehran today February 23 to give full report. He said he did not believe proposed meeting of Foreign Minister at Abadan would be useful unless constructive agenda agreed upon ahead of time.

WAILES

NPL:DHP

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